



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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18 JUNE 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. Vietnam

The government's confrontation with the militant Buddhists has reached a turning point.

In Hué, where there are now four battalions of loyal troops and field police, the government has tightened its grip. Police apparently raided Tri Quang's headquarters pagoda today, and have banned all demonstrations. General Nhuan, commander of the unreliable First Division, has been relieved by a para-trooper general, and his fate is not known.

Leaders of struggle forces have been given an ultimatum to surrender within 24 hours or be attacked by the troops.

The three-day general strike in Saigon called for by the militants of the Buddhist Institute has failed. Even shops near the Institute pagoda itself apparently remained open for business today.

That part of the city remains disturbed, however, and is now off limits to all US vehicles after Molotov cocktails were heaved this afternoon at three US Army jeeps on official business. The main pagoda has been completely sealed off by government police following the murder of a policeman this morning by a mob of youths, who apparently took refuge inside.

The US Embassy, in a general assessment of the recent role of the Buddhists, estimates that the split between the Buddhist moderates and militants is most unlikely to heal, and sees hope that Tri Quang will be thoroughly discredited by current developments.



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2. Panama

The embassy reports that President Robles and his ministers are very much concerned about the continuing potential for further disturbances in Panama. They realize that the mood of the people--particularly in Colon--is explosive and the government must now move quickly to relieve the slum conditions which helped spawn the riots.

As a first step, Robles has set up special committees in Colon and Panama City to work out remedial "action programs" for these two urban centers.

3. Cuba

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4. Cyprus

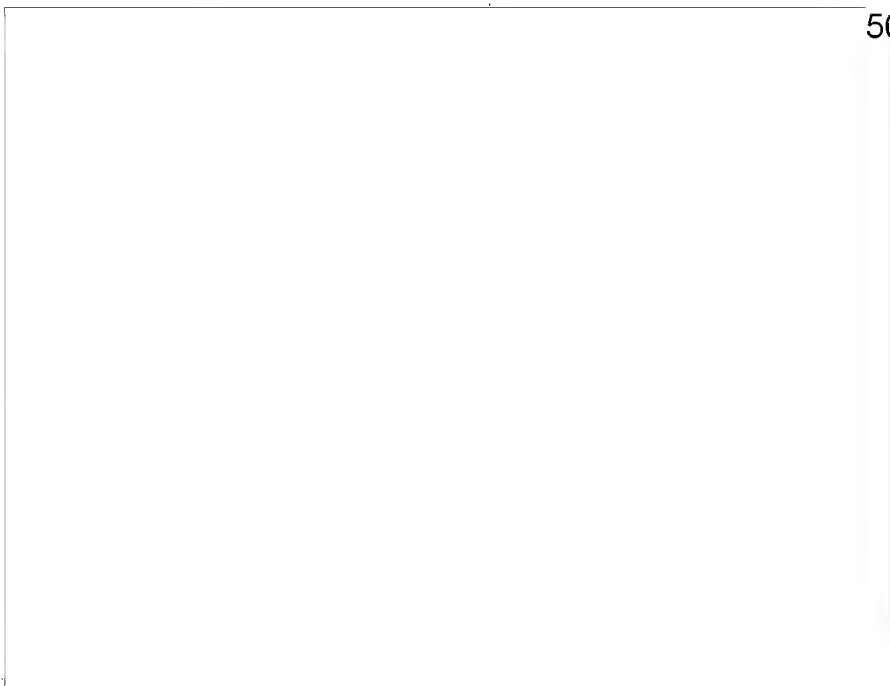
Tensions arising from Greek Cypriot road construction in the Trypimeni area northeast of Nicosia seem to be easing (see map). At the urging of Athens, the Greek Cypriots are said to have agreed to allow UN officials additional time to resolve the impasse over the new road, which would cut through an area dominated by the Turkish Cypriots.

At the same time, procedural arrangements have been completed for the reopening of Greek-Turkish talks on the Cyprus problem; special emissaries may meet later this month.

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5. Indonesia

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